

19 May 1971

SUBJECT: Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-Go-Round Column -
Washington Post 5 May 1971 - Titled "Laotians Accused
in Heroin Traffic"

The Anderson column states in part:

"... a congressional investigation has confirmed our earlier allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency is involved in the Laotian heroin operations.

"The investigation was made by Reps. Robert Steele (R., Conn.) and Morgan Murphy (D., Ill.), both members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"Steele is preparing a report that will allege CIA Air American aircraft have been used to transport the drug from northern Laos into the capital city of Vientiane.

"It says, however, there is no evidence that the CIA had any official policy of letting its planes be used to move the drugs. Furthermore, it adds that the agency has now cracked down on the practice."

Looking to what may be considered a prime allegation by Mr. Anderson that CIA Air America aircraft are used to transport opium/heroin, it is just plain not true.

As for Mr. Anderson's allegation that Messrs. Steele and Murphy will report such a finding to the House Foreign Affairs Committee or its Chairman, Representative Morgan, direct contact with Messrs. Steele and Murphy is recommended. However, it is noted that although many releases have been made by Messrs. Steele and Murphy to the press and in other quarters, they have not mentioned Agency involvement or Air America complicity.

DOJ Review Completed.

CRC,
6/5/2002

The position of United States Government agencies operating in Southeast Asia in regard to drug traffic is probably no more clearly shown than in a propaganda broadcast (1969) by the Pathet Lao that they are going to live as they wish and grow opium whereas the Meo tribesmen under "imperialistic domination" cannot.

The CIA has never been a knowing party to any drug trafficking. Its efforts have been to discourage the growth of opium and in certain areas the efforts have had limited success. The observation of Mr. Roland Paul, a former investigator for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who made a study of the Indochina area for that Committee last year, is somewhat pointed in this regard. He writes in the April issue of Foreign Affairs, "In passing it may be interesting to note that because of their long association with the American agency (CIA), the hill tribes have shifted their agricultural emphasis from opium to rice."

Air America has been alert to the problem of smuggling of opium and counteractions have been taken by the airline for several years. Tight controls and spotchecks have been exercised over all aircraft and personnel. In those few instances where Air America personnel have attempted narcotic smuggling, prompt action has been taken in close coordination with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs which has the prime responsibility worldwide within the U.S. Government in such matters.

Mr. Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, in a rare public appearance, touched on this subject of drug traffic in an address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors on 14 April of this year:

"There is the arrant nonsense, for example, that the Central Intelligence Agency is somehow involved in the world drug traffic. We are not. As fathers, we are as concerned about the lives of our children and grandchildren as are all of you. As an Agency, in fact, we are heavily engaged in tracing the foreign roots of the drug traffic for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. We hope we are helping with a solution; we know we are not contributing to the problem."

This is in response to your letter of _____ concerning stories carried in Ramparts Magazine and in the syndicated column of Jack Andersen alleging CIA involvement in the trafficking of opium used by U.S. troops in South Vietnam.

Such charges appear to be part of an effort to discredit agencies of Government such as the U.S. military, the FBI, the Department of State and the CIA which in point of fact are working actively with the BNDD in our world-wide effort to curtail international drug traffic.

Actually, CIA has for sometime been this Bureau's strongest partner in identifying foreign sources and routes of the illegal trade in narcotics. Their help has included both direct support in intelligence collection, as well as in intelligence analysis and production. Liaison between our two agencies is close and constant in matters of mutual interest. Much of the progress we are now making in identifying overseas narcotics traffic can, in fact, be attributed to CIA cooperation.

In Burma, Laos, and Thailand, opium is produced by tribal peoples beyond the political reach of the national governments. Since the 1950's this Southeast Asian area has become a massive producer of opium and is the source of 500-750 metric tons annually, which is about half the world's illicit supplies, although up to now less than ten percent of the heroin entering the U.S. comes from Far Eastern production.

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The dimensions of the drug problem and the absence of any strong political base for control purposes has been a dilemma for United Nations opium control bodies operating in Southeast Asia for many years. Drug traffic, use, and addiction appears to have become accepted as a fact of life in the area and, on the whole, public attitudes are not conducive to change.

The U.S. Government has been concerned that Southeast Asia could become the major source of illicit narcotics for U.S. addicts after the Turkish production is brought under control. The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, with the help of CIA and the Department of State, has been working to define and characterize the problems so that suitable programs to control and eliminate opium, such as the present U.N. pilot project in Thailand, can be implemented. It is probable that opium production in Southeast Asia will be finally controlled only with further political development in these countries.

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7. [] Briefed Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, on latest information regarding Soviet ICBM silos. Slatinshek said it was not necessary for us to brief Chairman Hebert at this time, but he would mention it to the Chairman at the first opportunity.

25X1

8. [] Talked to Thad Murray, in the office of Senator William Spong, who confirmed the Senator's reluctance to put in the Congressional Record a letter from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs praising the Agency's cooperation with the Bureau's efforts to deal with the drug problem in Southeast Asia.

25X1

9. [] [] the Agency's participant in the Congressional Fellowship program, called and said he would be serving in [] for the second half of the program and asked if we could refer him on a non-attributable basis to a reliable, unclassified source of information on the relative missile situation. After checking with [] FMSAC, I referred him to the studies put out by the London Institute of Strategic Studies.

25X1

10. [] Called Mr. Pettibone, in the Civil Service Commission, with regard to certain technical aspects of the cost-of-living amendment now pending in the Congress (S. 1681).

25X1

11. [] Received a call from Mary Swann, in the office of Representative F. Edward Hebert (D., La.), who requested a personnel interview for [] After checking with [] Office of Personnel, I advised Miss Swann that an interview had been set up for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, 20 May 1971.

25X1

12. [] Delivered to the offices of Senators Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.), Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.), George McGovern (D., S. Dak.), Fred Harris (D., Okla.), Edmund Muskie (D., Maine), Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.), and J. W. Fulbright (D., Ark.) FBIS items in which their names were mentioned.

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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 18 May 1971

25X1 1. [] Per her request, sent an application form
to [] the office of Representative Walter Flowers (D., Ala.). 25X1

2. [] Dorothy Fosdick, Senate Subcommittee on 25X1
National Security and International Operations staff, called and asked if there 25X1
was any new information []. She said Senator Jackson
had asked her about this. After checking with Mr. Duckett, I told her that
we had some material that had just been received but was still being worked
on. She asked if this would be processed in a couple of days and I told her
I was quite certain it would. She asked us to let her know if there was anything
significant. 25X1

25X1 3. [] I received a call from [], OSI, who 25X1
said he had a letter from [] asking if
we would look into employment opportunities in the Agency for a friend of
his, [] who is currently on the staff of the Senate Antitrust
and Monopoly Legislation Subcommittee. I told Newton I would get in touch
with [] 25X1

25X1 4. [] Paul Hartman, CI Staff, called and inquired 25X1
as to the repository for Hamilton Fish's hearings of 1930 by his Special
Committee to Investigate Communist Activities in the U.S. Hartman is
interested in the testimony of [] who testified before the
Committee on 24 July 1930. I told Hartman I would check with the House
Internal Security Committee on this and be back in touch with him.

25X1 5. [] [] CI Staff, called to say he is 25X1
forwarding to us a copy of a draft reply from the Bureau of Narcotics and
Drugs to an inquiry from Senator Spong about alleged involvement in drug
traffic in Southeast Asia. [] would like our comments tomorrow
morning. 25X1

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